

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /052 W

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R 130755Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2859

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TRIPOLI 0044

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT

SUBJECT: QADHAFI ON THE BENGHAZI STUDENT VIOLENCE

REF: TRIPOLI 0036

1. IN A STAGE-MANAGED SCENE AT THE EVENING SESSION OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS MEETING JANUARY 12, QADHAFI REFERRED AGAIN TO THE VIOLENT STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN BENGHAZI LAST WEEK. THE STAGE WAS SET BY JALLUD, WHO INTRODUCED A MOTION CALLING FOR THE SPENDING OF 35 MILLION DOLLARS IN THE NEW FIVE YEAR PLAN ON PROPAGANDA BECAUSE THERE WERE STILL SOME MISGUIDED PEOPLE WHO CARRIED PLACARDS OF EX-KING IDRIS (AS STUDENTS DID LAST WEEK IN BENGHAZI).

2. QADHAFI THEN TOOK OVER, AND WITH DELIBERATE AND PRACTISED DEMAGOGUERY RECALLED THAT THE STUDENTS HAD DESTROYED THE FORMER BENGHAZI CATHEDRAL, NOW THE PARTY HEADQUATERS. HE REMEMBERED WHEN LIBYANS USED TO STAND AND WATCH THE FOREIGNERS GO INTO THE CATHEDRAL FOR THEIR RITUALS, MEN AND WOMEN. THE CATHEDRAL HAD BEEN A SYMBOL OF IMPERIALISM, NOT CHRISTIANITY, AND AFTER THE REVOLUTION IT HAD BEEN TURNED INTO A PLACE FOR THE PEOPLE.

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NOW IT HAD BEEN DAMAGED. WORKING HIMSELF INTO A RAGE,

QADHAFI SAID WE WILL LEAVE IT NOW AS IT IS, AND WE WILL NOT
REPAIR IT. TURNING TO JALLUD: "ABDESSLAM, DO YOU HEAR*
THAT IS A DECISION, WE WILL NEVER REPAIR IT*"

3. THIS TOUCHED OFF A CHAOTIC DEMONSTRATION IN THE HALL
WHICH LASTED FOR SOME TIME, WITH THE DELEGATES SHOUTING
A SLOGAN WHICH CAME INTO VOGUE AFTER THE MUHAYSHI AFFAIR:
"ON WITH REVOLUTION, AND TRAITORS GET OUT".
CARLE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPEECHES, POLITICAL SITUATION, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TRIPOL00044
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760011-0967
From: TRIPOLI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760160/aaaacbsj.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TRIPOLI 36
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <03 JUN 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QADHAFI ON THE BENGHAZI STUDENT VIOLENCE
TAGS: PINT, LY, (QADHAFI, MU'AMMAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006